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The following remarkable circumstance may be depended on as a fact. A poor Irishwoman, who resided in Shoe-lane, London, was brought to bed on Friday se'nnight, and on the same evening dreamt that she should die on the Monday night following. This portentous dream was little attended to by her husband or her neighbours; but on Monday, during the hurricane, the husband thought he heard the roof of the house giving way, and mentioned his fears to his wife. She, however, was unable to help herself, and

dreadful to relate, the roof shortly afterwards falling in, buried in the ruins the unfortunate woman and her child! The husband with the utmost difficulty preserved his life, and though buried in the rubbish, miraculously extricated himself from his perilous situation.

NORWICH... On the night of the 17th ult. a lamb the property of Mr. J. Reynolds, of Beeston, St. Andrew, was completely buried under the snow, and was not seen again till the 12th instant (an interval of 26 days) when it was alive and well!

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### AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

*From the 20th of January, to the 20th of February, 1809.*

THE weather having for some weeks past been extremely wet and stormy, has greatly retarded the progress of the plough, and will probably occasion a press of business to the farmer, in getting the land prepared for the spring crops.

The early sown wheat continues to look well, and the later crops begin to put on a more favourable appearance.

The prices of grain continue to advance, oats in particular has experienced a very great rise, and oat-meal is proportionably high. This extraordinary rise appears to be occasioned by a general apprehension of the effects likely to result from the liberty proposed to be granted to the public stills, and not from any conviction of a scarcity of grain: last year's crop although not as productive as might be expected from its appearance, yet will fall very little if any thing short of the average of the last five years, and the general representation of the potatoe crops being favourable, encourages a hope that provisions will not advance to that enormous price, which the present alarm seems to have suggested.

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### MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

It may be proper to notice, as a subject closely connected with the Commercial interests of this country, the proposition made in the Imperial Parliament to permit the distillation from grain in Ireland, and to lay an additional duty on the importation of spirits from this country into Great Britain. In a former Commercial Report, this subject was noticed as connected with the proceedings in the last session of parliament, and a remark made that the business was taken up, rather as a question at issue between the landholders and the West Indian merchants, without reference to the most material point, whether in the state of seclusion in which the empire stands with regard to America and the North of Europe, grain will not be wanted in the shape of food. Every reason which applied in the course of last summer is equally cogent now, when the price of oats, the second article of prime necessity in Ireland, is at present so very high, and if the distillation be permitted to go on, is likely greatly to increase. But taxes are wanted, the revenue is found to be deficient, and the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer is only solicitous to procure money for his friends to carry on the war-system. The inhabitants of Belfast have had two meetings on the subject, and have petitioned parliament against the measure of distillation. A full account of the meeting, as extracted from the Belfast news papers is given at page 149, to which we refer, and crave the attention of our readers. It affords satisfaction to see some revival of public spirit in the town of Belfast, and much credit is due to some of the speakers on the occasion.

It is sincerely wished, that the opposition to the measure may be successful, though there is little room to expect that the good of the people will weigh against the expected increase to the revenue. Private advantage generally outweighs the public good, and some are inclined to wish that the merchants of Belfast had kept above all suspicion of sinister views, by acting with public spirit in petitioning against the Orders in Council, which principally caused the alarms of scarcity, and seem likely to deprive the inhabitants of Ireland of the usual

supply of flaxseed, as well as against a business, in which the interests of the West Indian merchants were peculiarly concerned.

The principal land-holders in the town and vicinity of Portadown, have likewise addressed the Representatives of the Co. of Armagh, in strong terms against taking off the restrictions on the distilleries; and the inhabitants of Newry and Banbridge have also petitioned parliament against the measure.

Dr. A. Fothergill in illustrating the influence of light on the human body, shows, that the tax on windows is injurious to the health of the poorer classes. Here we have one instance of the hurtful effects of taxation operating on health. We have many instances of taxes operating unfavourably on morals. Great facilities are given to license public houses so as to increase the revenue. While wars are continued, they must be supported by heavy taxation; and taxes are unfavourable in more instances than the two enumerated here, to health and morals. Thus by the blunders of statesmen we are deprived of the blessings we might enjoy. To increase the revenue, grain is wasted in distillation, and by a wrong policy we are cut off from the supplies of flaxseed and timber. High prices of the necessaries of life, and a want of their usual employment appear to await the poorer classes of our population, at no great distance of time.

Much distress must necessarily result to the different classes of workmen employed in the several branches of building, from the present exorbitant prices of timber; and this state of things, and the prospect of the want of employment in the linen trade, cause the high prices of provisions to be more severely felt. The supplies of timber which have hitherto arrived from Canada have been totally inadequate to make up the deficiency of the usual supply from Norway, and the ports of the Baltic. If the present system of commercial warfare be persisted in, it may be prudent to look out for other resources, and it is said that the coast of Labrador affords an ample supply, if a colony were settled there to cut it.

The question of having any thing approaching to an adequate supply of flaxseed for next spring's sowing is already decided in the negative by all reflecting people. In the mean time it is said that in Connaught the stock of flax and yarn is extremely small. Much distress is there felt and more anticipated. The unhappy emigrants driven from the county of Armagh some years ago, by religious bigotry, had contributed greatly to extend the linen trade in that province. These, with others, may probably experience a second time, the evils arising out of a state of war, whose destructive energies are now so fatally directed against commerce.

Notice has been given in both Houses of Parliament of motions relative to the Orders in Council, and these when they come on will be likely to produce some interesting information on the subject of the embargo. There is reason to hope that notwithstanding the attempts made to stop the language of complaint and just remonstrance reaching the legislature, the grievance of the want of flaxseed will be fairly and unequivocally stated in the course of these debates. The Earl of Moira has already noticed, in the house of Lords, the dangers to which this country is exposed from this cause, almost in the very words of the statement which was furnished to him and other Members of both Houses. America has yet left an open for accommodation in her embargo and non-intercourse acts, if wise counsels are suffered to prevail on this side. These countries might then be relieved from many hardships, though no room is left for hope of any accommodation in time for flaxseed to arrive for this year's sowing.

The Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer has after a long silence returned an answer to the address sent to him from the majority of the meeting at Armagh, in which he endeavours to console the people for the present want of flaxseed by the hope, that hereafter Ireland may be independent of other countries for this article, by raising a sufficient quantity at home for future supply. *A slender consolation for the present!* His answer is calculated to remove from a view of the present to a remote future, and though abounding in attempts to excite delusive hopes, it gives no satisfactory or reasonable expectation of flaxseed being procured to supply our present wants. This measure would only have been accomplished by changing the ministerial system towards America. This letter shows, in a strong point of view, the inefficacy of the plan adopted. If a direct address to the proper organs of the constitution had failed to produce any effect, there would at least have remained the consolation, that the Linendrapers of the north of Ireland had *done their duty* by making a public remonstrance.

In our present prospects as to flaxseed, hemp seems to offer some relief, as a

strong linen can be manufactured from it; consequently the culture of that article for the ensuing year becomes a subject of the highest importance, if by any means it can be temporarily substituted for our linen-manufacture, and thus, or by an increase of calicoes made especially, so as to furnish another substitute for linen, our weavers can have employment continued to them. Last year the Linen-board made some exertions to promote the growth of hemp, and published a pamphlet on the subject, with extracts from some of the agricultural surveys in England; but they were too late and the ground was pre-occupied by other crops. At page 108 will be found a further account of this subject. We hope if the linen board design to give any encouragement this year, in this business, they will do it speedily. Last year, they took up the subject of sowing hemp with the view only to procure a substitute for the defect of a foreign supply of that article. This year a more extensive scheme should be adopted to encourage the sowing of it on a large scale, that it may be substituted in the place of flax in the linen manufacture. One strong fact presents itself, that in Suffolk a good stout linen is manufactured from it: and this knowledge may be very important in the present crisis, when we are deprived of flax-seed.

At the late linen market in Dublin, many of the coarser linens were prevented from being got up to the market in time, from the floods delaying the finishing of them at the greens. Those which did arrive sold readily and at high prices. The sale of fine linens was dull. Few of those bought on speculation, some months ago, are yet sold. The prices of brown linens fell a little in our markets, but the coarser kinds have again risen to nearly the former very high prices, and may be expected to rise still higher.

Exchange on bills on London, in Belfast, for guineas, has been from 5 to 4½ per cent, and discount on bank notes at 3 to 2 per cent, during this month. The Exchange in Dublin on London, for bank notes, has rated from 7¼ to 6½ per cent.

Since the foregoing Report was written, the account of the debate in the House of Lords, on the Orders in Council on the 17th Instant has been received; Lord Grenville, in the course of his speech, pointed out the impolicy of quarrelling with America, and defended the government of that country against the charge of partiality towards France. The nature of this Report precludes from entering further into this debate than to notice it so far as it relates to flax-seed; though if the plan of our present arrangement permitted, some pages of this Magazine might be usefully taken up with the report of his able speech, as it might tend to remove many hurtful prejudices which appear to be cherished against that country, with which it is certainly our truest policy to keep on good terms.

On the subject of flax-seed he remarked:—"The great importance of the linen manufacture of Ireland is well known, and the difficulty in procuring flax-seed is at present a serious evil;—of forty-five thousand hogsheads required for sowing, thirty-five thousand must be procured from America. In consequence of the interruption of the trade with America the price of flax-seed which was from 2*l.* to 3*l.* per quarter, has risen to from 22 to 24*l.* per quarter. *It is now February, and if the necessary quantity of flax-seed is not procured before May, the consequences will indeed be serious, and the northern district of Ireland, once the most populous, industrious and prosperous, may be reduced to a state of unexampled distress.*"

Earl Bathurst in his reply, is stated to have spoken as follows:—"He could assure his Noble Friend, that in as far as Ireland was likely to be affected, Government had long ago turned its attention to them. The high price of flax-seed was found, on inquiry, to arise, in a great degree, from monopoly, and for the purpose of disappointing the speculations of interested individuals, they had applied what, in such cases, was found to be the most effectual remedy, by encouraging competition. They had ordered purchases to be made in different parts of the Continent; and though he could not at present say what quantity had been bought up, he had no doubt that supplies to a considerable extent would soon arrive. And an order had also been sent out to Lower Canada, though from the freezing of the river St. Lawrence, the cargoes were not likely to arrive till the month of May or June. He took this opportunity of correcting a very erroneous notion which some persons entertained, that the soil of Ireland was not properly calculated for raising flax-seed, and he was happy to state that large tracts of ground in that country were now preparing for this species of cultivation, and that there was every prospect of a sufficient quantity of flax-seed being soon grown in that country, not only for its own supply, but also for the supply of Great Britain; so that, though the inconvenience might be felt for a time, it was very far from being one which, as his Noble Friend had stated, was likely to be a growing evil."

The motion to address the king to renew the intercourse with the United States of America, was negatived, though a larger minority than usual supported the address. But here, as in other assemblies, reason and sound policy were forced to yield to numbers.

In our next Report it is intended to give a similar account of the debate on the same subject, expected to come on in the House of Commons. But before the subject is dismissed for the present, it may be permitted to remark that a supply of flax-seed, if such *does exist at present* in that country, cannot be expected to arrive from Canada before June, as the breaking up of the ice in the river St. Lawrence is not likely to allow vessels to sail long before the beginning of May. Unluckily it is too late to sow in June, and much injury may be done if by holding out such fallacious expectations, the grounds are kept uncropped till that time. As to the question of raising flax-seed in Ireland, even if the plan is practicable, it can afford no relief for the present year, for owing to the wetness of last summer *very little* was then saved; and the flax-crops, in many instances, were injured by the unsuccessful attempt to save the seed. It is hoped, however, the practice may succeed generally in other years; but in the mean time, the alarming consideration forces itself on observation, that in the course of this year a very considerable diminution, if not an almost total cessation of our staple manufacture must take place. At the present season there is not a *monopoly* of flax-seed, for that article is not in these countries, nor is there a reasonable expectation of more than one third of a necessary supply coming in. Let not the people be deceived by vain hopes, nor delay purchasing what they can procure timely. In cases of distress it is best to see the worst of our situation, and meet the difficulty with prudent precaution and foresight.

### MEDICAL REPORT.

*List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from January 20, till February 20*

Barometer.....highest	- - - - 30 40	Thermometer.....highest	- - - - - 47 10
lowest	- - - - 28 30	lowest	- - - - - 34 30
mean	- - - - 29 10	mean	- - - - - 40 10
<i>Synochus</i> ,	- - - - - 1	Of a mixed nature between typhus and inflammatory fe-	
<i>Typhus</i> ,	- - - - - 8	Common contagious fever.	
<i>Erysipelas</i> ,	- - - - - 2	Rose.	
<i>Ophthalmia</i> ,	- - - - - 3	Inflammation of the eyes.	
<i>Abortus</i> ,	- - - - - 1	Abortion.	
<i>Colica Spasmodica</i> ,	- - - - - 1	Cholic.	
<i>Phthisis Pulmonalis</i> ,	- - - - - 1	Consumption.	
<i>Asthma</i> ,	- - - - - 3	Asthma.	
<i>Dyspepsia</i> ,	- - - - - 4	Indigestion.	
<i>Asthenia</i> ,	- - - - - 3	Nervous Debility.	
<i>Catarrhus</i> ,	- - - - - 3	Common cold.	
<i>Hysteria</i> ,	- - - - - 1	Hysteries.	
<i>Dysenteria</i> ,	- - - - - 1	Flux.	
<i>Arthrodynia</i> ,	- - - - - 2	Chronic rheumatism.	
<i>Scrophula</i> ,	- - - - - 3	Evil.	
<i>Herpes</i> ,	- - - - - 1	Ringworm, or tetter.	
<i>Epilepsia Cerebralis</i> ,	- - - - - 1	Convulsions or falling sickness.	
<i>Gonorrhœa</i> ,	{	- - - - - 7 Venereal disease.	
<i>Syphilis</i> ,			
<i>Morbi infantiles</i> ,	- - - - - 20	Febrile and bowel complaints of Children.	

Contagious Fever, that terrible scourge both to poverty and wealth, has increased rapidly since our last, and is advancing with gigantic strides, as may be seen by inspecting the annexed report, whilst small-pox, scarlet fever and measles, have nearly disappeared. The spreading of the disease, although always attended with great misery and distress, particularly among the poor, is not so much to be dreaded as a peculiarly bad character or type which it has assumed, and which can only be prevented from making many the victims of its destructive agency, in this large and thickly inhabited town, by a speedy removal to an hospital, or by a separation of the sick from the healthy, and by a steady perseverance in ventilation and cleanliness. *Abutions*, with cold water and vinegar, have been, in many instances, attended with the most marked good effects in the Reporter's practice, where the temperature of the body was encreased to 100 degrees of Fahrenheit, or upwards; but